

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Behavioral Health	(2) MEETING DATE 4/5/2016	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Amy Olson, ASO II, 781-4729; Cindy Collins, ASM, 788-2932	
(4) SUBJECT Request to approve a FY 2015-16 (April 1-June 30) through FY 2016-17 renewal contract with Lucien Morin, Nurse Practitioner, at an hourly rate of \$60 to provide mental health services to drug and alcohol clients. All Districts.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board approve a FY 2015-16 (April 1-June 30) through FY 2016-17 renewal contract with Lucien Morin, N.P. at an hourly rate of \$60 to provide mental health medication services to clients receiving drug and alcohol services who have co-occurring mental health needs.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) Medi-Cal	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$72,446.00 (estimated)	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$72,446.00 (estimated)	(9) BUDGETED? Yes
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT { X } Consent { } Presentation { } Hearing (Time Est. ____) { } Board Business (Time Est. ____)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS { } Resolutions { X } Contracts { } Ordinances { } N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) 19001637		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: N/A { } 4/5 Vote Required { X } N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY { } N/A Date: <u>02-24-2015</u>	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Morgan Torell			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts			

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jeff Hamm, Health Agency Director
Anne Robin, LMFT, Behavioral Health Administrator

DATE: 4/5/2016

SUBJECT: Request to approve a FY 2015-16 (April 1-June 30) through FY 2016-17 renewal contract with Lucien Morin, Nurse Practitioner, at an hourly rate of \$60 to provide mental health services to drug and alcohol clients. All Districts.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board approve a FY 2015-16 (April 1-June 30) through FY 2016-17 renewal contract with Lucien Morin, N.P. at an hourly rate of \$60 to provide mental health medication services to clients receiving drug and alcohol services who have co-occurring mental health needs.

DISCUSSION

Behavioral Health Services has a need for a nurse practitioner on a part-time basis to provide limited mental health medication services duties for drug and alcohol clients who have co-occurring mental health needs. Nurse practitioner services are necessary to ensure mandated mental health services, as per California Code of Regulations Title 9, Division 4 Section 9550, for eligible drug and alcohol clients throughout the County. The Department has been unable to fill the current vacant half time Mental Health (MH) Nurse Practitioner position. Coverage for the required services will allow the Department to remain in compliance until the permanent position can be filled.

The availability of a contract nurse practitioner to perform necessary mental health medication services duties allows for the flexibility to provide mandated services but puts the County under no obligation to utilize these services when not mandated. Some of these duties will include direct treatment of selected clients, medication evaluations as requested by non-medical staff, diagnostic evaluations upon request of non-medical staff, and consultation and collaboration with County staff regarding treatment and referral of clients. These contracted mental health medical services are an essential component in the Department's staffing plan as the need for mental health treatment for drug and alcohol clients increases.

The previous contract expired December 31, 2015. This renewal contract is for a fifteen month period, April 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the contract as to form and legal effect.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

This contract establishes an hourly rate for nurse practitioner contract services, which will be provided for an estimated 8 hours per day twice weekly at a rate of \$60 per hour. The FY 2015-16 adopted budget includes a half time Mental Health Nurse Practitioner position at a cost of \$81,716, however, the recommended agreement includes no cap on the services the contractor is able to provide. The half time MH Nurse Practitioner position has remained unfilled and the expense of the contract nurse practitioner will be offset by salary savings resulting from the vacant staff position. If the vacant permanent MH Nurse Practitioner position is filled, fewer contract nurse practitioner hours will be utilized. It is anticipated that the expenses of the contract nurse practitioner will fall below the budgeted 0.50 FTE amount. The County will compensate the contractor for only the actual services rendered.

RESULTS

Mental health medication services are an integral part of drug and alcohol operations for clients, and a critical component to the overall effort to provide quality client care. The nurse practitioner is licensed and trained to provide treatment and prescribe the medications needed by drug and alcohol clients who have co-occurring mental health symptoms.

The provision of mental health medication services embedded in the drug and alcohol clinic sites is fairly new, beginning summer 2015. Once a full year of data has been collected and analyzed, the Department will be able to analyze the data and formulate some measureable outcomes with regard to reduction in alcohol use, redirection in drug use, reduction of psychiatric symptoms, and client overall wellbeing as reported between admission and discharge.

Without these services, Behavioral Health could neither meet State mandates for mental health services nor properly prescribe and monitor medications. Contracting with a nurse practitioner enables us to more efficiently meet our mandate of providing mental health medication services to individuals who come for services through the drug and alcohol clinic, enhancing both mandated access to care and quality of services.

As an example, current benchmark data for County Behavioral Health Psychiatrist/Nurse Practitioner wait times is approximately 14 days, down from 19 days a year ago. While the 14-day wait time is acceptable as per state mandates, County Behavioral Health endeavors to reduce wait times in order to provide more timely and consistent services to clients. When evaluating the Department's Performance Measure in reducing readmission to the Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF), timely access to a Psychiatrist/Nurse Practitioner is directly related to reducing PHF readmissions to produce better client outcomes.

When fully staffed, providing nurse practitioner coverage to drug and alcohol clients contributes to proper care and oversight of client treatment and further contributes to the Department's performance measure of low readmission rates to the PHF. Providing the most appropriate services to the clients increases the probability of positive treatment outcomes. Furthermore, positive treatment outcomes contribute to the wider County vision of a healthy and safe community.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Lucien Morin, NP, Contract Renewal